PILL DISPENSER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/270,321, filed Sep. 20, 2016 and entitled Pill Dispenser, now U.S. Publication No. US-2017-0011202-A1, published Jan. 12, 2017 (Attorney Docket No. S78) which is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/077,389, filed Mar. 22, 2016 and entitled Pill Dispenser, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,465,919, issued Oct. 11, 2016 (Attorney Docket No. R64).

[0002] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/077,389, filed Mar. 22, 2016 and entitled Pill Dispenser, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,465,919, issued Oct. 11, 2016 (Attorney Docket No. R64) is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/723,235, filed Dec. 21, 2012 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Dispensing Oral Medications, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,400,873, issued Jul. 26, 2016 (Attorney Docket No. J74) which is a Non-Provisional Application which claims priority to and benefit of the following:

[0003] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/578,649, filed Dec. 21, 2011 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Infusing Fluid (Attorney Docket No. J02);

[0004] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/578,658, filed Dec. 21, 2011 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Estimating Liquid Delivery (Attorney Docket No. J04);

[0005] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/578,674, filed Dec. 21, 2011 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Dispensing Oral Medications (Attorney Docket No. J05);

[0006] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/679,117, filed Aug. 3, 2012 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Monitoring, Regulating, or Controlling Fluid Flow (Attorney Docket No. J30); and

[0007] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/651,322, filed May 24, 2012 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. J46), each of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0008] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/723,235, filed Dec. 21, 2012 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Dispensing Oral Medications (Attorney Docket No. J74) is also a Continuation In Part Application of the following:

[0009] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/333,574, filed Dec. 21, 2011 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care, now U.S. Publication No. US-2012-0185267-A1, published Jul. 19, 2012 (Attorney Docket No. 197), and

[0010] PCT Application Serial No. PCT/US11/66588, filed Dec. 21, 2011 and entitled System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. 197WO), both of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

[0011] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/270,321, filed Sep. 20, 2016 and entitled Pill Dispenser, now U.S. Publication No. US-2017-0011202-A1, published Jan. 12, 2017 (Attorney Docket No. S78) may also be related to one or more of the following patent applications filed on Dec. 21, 2012, all of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties:

[0012] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Clamping (Attorney Docket No. J47), Ser. No. 13/723,238;

[0013] PCT application for System, Method, and Apparatus for dispensing oral medications (Attorney Docket No. J74WO), Ser. No. PCT/US12/71131;

[0014] Nonprovisional application for Syringe Pump (Attorney Docket No. J75), Ser. No. 13/724,568;

[0015] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Infusing Fluid (Attorney Docket No. J76), Ser. No. 13/725,790;

[0016] PCT application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Infusing Fluid (Attorney Docket No. J76WO), Ser. No. PCT/US12/71490;

[0017] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. J77), Ser. No. 13/723,239;

[0018] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. J78), Ser. No. 13/723,242;

[0019] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Monitoring, Regulating, or Controlling Fluid Flow (Attorney Docket No. J79), Ser. No. 13/723,244;

[0020] PCT application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Monitoring, Regulating, or Controlling Fluid Flow (Attorney Docket No. J79WO), Serial No. PCT/US12/71142;

[0021] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Estimating Liquid Delivery (Attorney Docket No. J81), Ser. No. 13/723,251;

[0022] PCT application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Estimating Liquid Delivery (Attorney Docket No. J81WO), Serial No. PCT/US12/71112; and

[0023] Nonprovisional application for System, Method, and Apparatus for Electronic Patient Care (Attorney Docket No. J85), Ser. No. 13/723,253.

BACKGROUND

Relevant Field

[0024] The present disclosure relates to dispensing oral medications. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to a system, method, and apparatus for dispensing oral medications.

Description of Related Art

[0025] Medications are taken for many different reasons, such as to treat an illness, relieve pain, keep biological parameters within low risk ranges (e.g., blood pressure), nutritional supplementation, and other reasons. The medication may be taken for a short period of time or for life. For example, a person with an ear infection may get a prescription for a certain medication to take for a week. Other times the medication is taken for a long period of time, possibly forever. For example, a person with high blood pressure may take a certain medication all the time. People taking medication for a long period of time may receive a prescription for a certain quantity of the medication given to the patient by a pharmacists or physician with possibly one or more refills. After the prescription expires (e.g., all refills are used) the person, or someone caring for them, may need to call a doctor or caregiver to receive a new prescription. Some medications are given in pill form, which is typically a small